THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to introduce a superfast train between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam on account of paucity of resources such as coaches, Diesel Locomotives, line capacity and terminal facilities.

Sugar factories in Maharashtra

*258. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories operating in the private and Co-operative sectors, respectively in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of those operating in the backward regions of Konkan, Vidarbha and Marathwada;

(c) what is the number of applications pending for setting up of new sugar factories in the co-operative sector in Maharashtra;

(d) whether any of these applications pertain to the backward regions stated in part (b) above; and

(e) whether the Central Government proposes to help those backward regions to set up more sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) There are 80 installed sugar factories in Maharashtra, 11 in the Private Secter and 69 in Co-operative Sector.

(b) There are a certain number of districts in Maharashtra which have been officially declared backward by the Government of India, some of which lie in the backward regions of Konkan, Vidarbha and Marathwada also. There are 22 installed sugar factories in the various backward districts of Maharashtra.

(c) There are 13 pending applications for setting up new sugar factories in Cooperative sectors from the various districts in Maharashtra.

(d) Some of the applications pertain to the notified backward districts of Maharashtra State.

(e) Subject to the economic feasibility and availability of adequate sugarcane, the Central Government would like to give priority for setting up new sugar factories in backward regions as sugar factories tend to act as powerful rural growth centre.

Completion of Masani Bandh in Haryana

*259. SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated cost of Masani Bandh on Saibi Nadi near Rewari in Haryana;

(b) whether the expenditure on this Bandh has now increased disproportionately;

(c) what is the amount of money which has been spent so far, the progress made in completing the Bandh and the area of the land irrigated in 1983-84 from the waters of the Bandh; and

(d) what arrangements Government have made to desilt the bandh areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) and (b) The State Government has reported that the earlier estimated cost of Rs. 35.96 crores for the Masani Barrage has increased to about Rs. 56 crores due to abnormal increase in land rates, price index and labour rates etc.

(c) the State Government has reported that the expenditure incurred on the work upto June 1984 is Rs. 27 crores and the progress of works as under:—

(i) Right and left embankments for a total length of 18 km. have been completed;

(ii) Out of the 18 bays of the barrage concerting in bays from 1 to 18 have been completed upto crest portion and piers upto RL 245. The concrete in bays 1 to 6 is in progress.

No irrigation was carried out from the scheme during 1983-84.

(d) Six out of 18 bays have been provided as undersluice bays.

Fresh breach in Bhakra Canal

*260. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only ten days after a major breach in the Bhakra Main-Line Canal was repaired, another breach in the canal was detected on the 21st July, 1984 near Dugri Kotli village in Ropar district;

(b) if so, when did the sabotage take place and when it was detected;

(c) what are the particulars of the areas hit thereby and the extent of damage to the Canal, crops and property respectively;

(d) whether any persons have been arrested in this connection, if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when it is likely to be repaired and the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(f) what steps are being taken against such a recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) to (f) The first breach in the Bhakra Main Line was repaired and water released on 10th July, 1984, The second breach was noticed at about 6.00 A.M. on 21st July, 1984 some distance downstream of Siswan Super passage. About 600 ft. length of the right bank and about 550 length of the left bank was washed away in addition to some damage to the flared out walls of the Super passage and to the bridge. It is reported by Punjab that an area of about 5.35 lakh ha. in Punjab, 11.62 lakh ha. in Haryana and 1.35 lakh ha. in Rajasthan could not be supplied within Canal water due to this breach.

The breach is expected to be repaired within next four weeks at an approximate cost of Rs. 2.00 crores The Government of Punjab have informed that in order to ensure safety, the Canal was being guarded and patrolling by State Police and Para Military forces has been intensified. Government of Punjab have reported that one person has been arrested in connection with this breach and he is under police remand.

Flour industries in Jammu and Kashmir

†1561. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flour industries granted licences in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that owners of the flour mills have installed machinery of greater capacity than the permitted one; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in affirmative, what action Government propose to take against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) Six units have been licensed under the Wheat Roller Flour Mills (L&C) Order, 1957, during the last three years.

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†Previously Unstarred Question 1264 transferred from the 3rd August, 1984.